



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

JORDANIAN PILOT DEPORTED FOR FRAUD MARRIAGE, FALSIFYING PILOT APPLICATION

CHICAGO—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deported a 24-year-old pilot to Jordan Tuesday who married a United States citizen to evade immigration laws and lied on multiple Federal Aviation Administration pilot applications that he was a U.S. citizen.

Sami Abuhamatto, a citizen of Jordan, was sentenced Oct. 14 in U.S. District Court in Chicago on four counts of lying on various FAA applications to become a certified commercial pilot and flight instructor.

He was also sentenced for committing marriage fraud by paying a U.S. citizen \$1,500 to marry him in December 2003 so he could fraudulently apply for permanent residency in the U.S.

ICE special agents arrested Abuhamatto in July at his Brookfield residence and charged him with making false statements about being born in the United States and falsely claiming U.S. citizenship on three Airman Certificates/Rating Applications he submitted to the FAA in 2001 and 2002. Abuhamatto signed his FAA applications stating the information included in the applications was true, but it was not.

“Lying about U.S. citizenship on an FAA application is a serious issue, especially in light of the 9/11 hijackings and terrorist attacks,” said Special Agent-in-Charge Elissa A. Brown, who leads investigations for ICE in Chicago. “Our ICE agents work diligently to uncover and halt criminal activity that poses a threat to national security.”

Abuhamatto was employed as a flight instructor by Midway Aviators in Chicago and J.F. Aviation in Joliet prior to his arrest.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.